BABY CRIB

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority of Chinese Application No. 2004200018045, filed on January 2, 2004.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The invention relates to a baby crib, more particularly to a baby crib that can be assembled with ease.

2. Description of the Related Art

Referring to Figures 1 and 2, a currently available baby crib is shown to comprise a bed frame structure 8 and an enclosure member 9 mounted on the bed frame structure 8 so as to define a receiving space for a baby to sleep or play.

The bed frame structure 8 usually has an upright tube 81 disposed at each corner of the crib. The enclosure member 9 is sleeved on the four upright tubes 81 of the bed frame structure 8, and is stretched tightly thereby. A screw 82 is passed through a packing plate 83 and the enclosure member 9, and engages a bottom end portion of the corresponding upright tube 81 so as to fix the enclosure member 9 on the bed frame structure 8.

However, assembly of the aforesaid baby crib actually consumes a lot of time. Furthermore, since the screw 82 passes through the enclosure member 9 so as to fix the enclosure member 9 on the corresponding upright tube

81 of the bed frame structure 8, a hole is formed in the enclosure member 9 such that when the enclosure member 9 is stretched, the enclosure member 9 is likely to tear at the periphery of the hole. Moreover, the outer appearance of the aforesaid baby crib is adversely affected since the screw 82 is visible from the exterior of the bed frame structure 8.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, the object of the present invention is to provide a baby crib that can be easily assembled, that has a fabric member effectively positioned on a bed frame structure, and that has an appealing appearance.

According to this invention, a baby crib comprises a bed frame structure, a fabric member, and a plurality of positioning posts. The bed frame structure includes a plurality of upright tubes, each of which has a tube wall defining a receiving hole and having a slit that extends along the length of the tube wall and that is in spatial communication with the receiving hole. The fabric member is mounted on the bed frame structure to define a surrounding wall around the bed frame structure. The positioning posts are mounted on the fabric member, and are inserted respectively into the receiving holes in the upright tubes. The fabric member is clamped between each of the upright tubes and a corresponding one of the positioning posts, and extends outward through

the slit in each of the upright tubes.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent in the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a currently available baby crib;

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view of Figure 1, illustrating how an enclosure member is fixed on a bed frame structure by a screw;

Figure 3 is an exploded perspective view of the preferred embodiment of a baby crib according to the present invention;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary schematic view of the preferred embodiment, illustrating how a fabric member is positioned on a bed frame structure; and

Figure 5 is a sectional view of the preferred embodiment taken along line V-V of Figure 4.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to Figures 3 to 5, the preferred embodiment of a baby crib according to the present invention is shown to comprise a bed frame structure 1, a fabric member 2, and a plurality of positioning posts 22.

The bed frame structure 1 is rectangular, and includes four upright tubes 11 disposed on each corner of the bed frame structure 1. Each of the upright tubes 11 is

rigid, and has a tube wall 110 defining a receiving hole 111. To enhance the appearance of the baby crib of the present invention, each upright tube 11 is preferably curved, as best shown in Figure 3. Each upright tube 11 is formed of extruded aluminum such that an inner portion thereof is formed with the receiving hole 111 that extends along the length of the tube wall 110. The tube wall 110 is formed with a slit 112 which extends along the length of the tube wall 110 and which is in spatial communication with the receiving hole 111. Each upright tube 11 further has a top open end 113 that is in spatial communication with the receiving hole 111.

The fabric member 2 is mounted on the bed frame structure 1 so as to define a surrounding wall around the bed frame structure 1, and includes four sleeve portions 21 (only one is shown in Figure 5) formed by sewing.

In this embodiment, there are four positioning posts 22 mounted on the fabric member 2, and each of the positioning posts 22 is formed as a flexible tube, such as a plastic or metal tube. Each positioning post 22 is enclosed within the respective sleeve portion 21 of the fabric member 2 so that the fabric member 2 is formed with four lateral sides when the latter is mounted on the bed frame structure 1.

During assembly, the fabric member 2 is directly mounted on the bed frame structure 1 by inserting the

positioning posts 22 respectively into the receiving holes 111 in the upright tubes 11 through the top open ends 113. As shown in Figure 5, the tube wall 110 of each upright tube 11 includes a first wall part 114 and a second wall part 115. The first wall part 114 is concentric with a respective one of the positioning posts 22, and has two opposite first ends 1141 on two sides of the slit 112. The second wall part 115 is eccentric relative to the respective one of the positioning posts 22, and extends around the first wall part 114. The second wall part 115 has two opposite second ends 1151 connected integrally to the first ends 1141 of the first wall part 114, and a remaining part 1152 spaced apart from the first wall part 114.

Since the positioning posts 22 are flexible, they can follow the curved configuration of the upright tubes 11 upon insertion into the receiving holes 111, as best shown in Figure 4. At this time, the fabric member 2 is clamped between each of the upright tubes 11 and a corresponding one of the positioning posts 22, and extends outward through the slit 112 in each of the upright tubes 11, as best illustrated in Figure 5.

Since the fabric member 2 is clamped between each of the upright tubes 11 and a corresponding one of the positioning posts 22, the fabric member 2 can be positioned fixedly on the bed frame structure 1 without the need for screws. As such, not only is the assembly

operation of the baby crib of the present invention quick, the outer appearance of the baby crib is enhanced as well since there are no screws visible from the exterior of the bed frame structure 1.

Referring back to Figure 3, a cap 12 is provided at the top open end 113 of each upright tube 11 after the corresponding positioning post 22 is inserted into the corresponding receiving hole 111 so as to cover the top open end 113, thereby further enhancing the outer appearance of the baby crib of the present invention.

In this embodiment, the aforementioned positioning posts 22 are flexible so as to follow the curved configuration of the upright tubes 11 upon insertion into the latter. However, when the upright tubes 11 are configured as straight posts, the positioning posts 22 need not be made of flexible materials. Instead, the positioning posts 22 can be made of wood. Furthermore, while the sleeve portions 21 are formed on the fabric member 2 by sewing so as to enclose the positioning posts 22 within the disclosed embodiment, alternative methods are available for mounting the positioning posts 22 fixedly to the fabric member 2.

From the aforementioned description of the preferred embodiment of the baby crib of the present invention, it is apparent that through the presence of the receiving holes 111 in the upright tubes 11 of the bed frame structure 1, and through the mounting of the positioning

posts 22 on the fabric member 2 prior to insertion into the receiving holes 111, screws are not required to position the fabric member 2 on the bed frame structure 1. As such, assembly and disassembly of the baby crib of the present invention is easy, the fabric member 2 is not easily damaged, and the outer appearance of the baby crib of the present invention is enhanced as well.

While the present invention has been described in connection with what is considered the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is understood that this invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiment but is intended to cover various arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent arrangements.